

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~ comprising:
walls made of a self-rigidizing material and a roof portion made of a self-rigidizing material, the roof portion having at least one solar panel integral thereto;
5 an inflator for inflating said inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~ upon deployment at a desired location, the inflator including an inflation gas in a sealed container that makes the self-rigidizing material more rigid;
 an interior portion suitable for housing a vehicle therein;
10 a first communication system for communicating between said vehicle and said ~~docking—station/garage~~;
 a second communication system for communicating between a remote location and at least one of said docking—station/garage and said vehicle; and
15 ~~an environmental control system~~ a heating and cooling system for providing a proper environment temperature for storing the vehicle, the heating and cooling system capable of converting a temperature in the garage of -200°F into a temperature of between about 40 degrees and about 70 degrees Fahrenheit for storing said vehicle.
2. (currently amended) The inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~ according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said docking station/garage is located on a planet surface other than Earth; and~~

5 said remote location is located on the planet Earth.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended)The inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~
according to claim 1, further comprising:

 solar panels disposed over at least a portion of an exterior surface
of said ~~docking station/garage~~;

5 an energy storing system for storing electrical energy generated
by said solar panels; and

 a power box for connecting said vehicle to electrical energy either
from said solar panels or from said energy storing system.

5. (currently amended)The inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~
according to claim 4, ~~further comprising a roof portion of said docking
station/garage having~~ wherein the solar panel comprises at least one solar wing
panel section ~~attached thereto, and~~ wherein when said ~~docking station/garage~~
5 is inflated, said solar wing panel provides additional solar panel surface area.

6. (currently amended)The inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~
according to claim 1, further comprising area sensors to detect the location of
said vehicle and guide said vehicle to said ~~docking station/garage~~ when said
vehicle completes a mission.

7. (currently amended)The inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~
according to claim 1, further comprising guidance sensors for guiding said
vehicle inside of said ~~docking station/garage~~.

8. (currently amended)The inflatable docking—station/garage according to claim 1, further comprising precision sensors for accurately position said vehicle at a predetermined position inside said docking station/garage.

9. (currently amended)The inflatable docking—station/garage according to claim 1, wherein the vehicle contains an experiment module designed to conduct scientific experiments concerning conditions on a surface of a planet other than the planet Earth, and further comprising an experimental station ~~experiment module~~ for offloading the ~~an~~ experiment module from said vehicle and loading a new experiment module onto said vehicle when said vehicle is positioned in said ~~docking station/garage~~.

10. (currently amended)The inflatable docking—station/garage according to claim 1, further comprising:

an outer section, enclosed on a top portion and at least two side portions, said outer section having an opening on two opposing sides, sized to allow said vehicle to pass therein;

an inner section, attached to said outer section;

a door on a portion of an exterior wall of said inner section, said door communicating said inner section with one of said two opposing sides of said outer portion, thereby allowing said vehicle to pass through said outer portion into said inner portion.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~ according to claim 1, further comprising a vehicle capable of entering and communicating with said ~~docking station/garage~~.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~ according to claim 1 ~~claim 14~~, wherein ~~said control station is located on Earth~~ and said planet surface is on the surface of Mars.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The inflatable ~~docking—station/garage~~ according to claim 1 ~~claim 14~~, further comprising:

area sensors to detect the location of said vehicle and guide said vehicle to said ~~docking station/garage~~ when said vehicle completes a mission;

5 guidance sensors for guiding said vehicle inside of said docking station/garage; and

precision sensors for accurately position said vehicle at a predetermined position inside said docking station/garage.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The facility according to claim 4 ~~19~~, further comprising:

solar panels ~~disposed over at least a portion of an exterior surface of said docking station/garage;~~

- 5 ~~an energy-storing system for storing electrical energy generated~~
by said solar panels;
 ~~a power box for connecting said vehicle to electrical energy either~~
~~from said solar panels or from said energy-storing system;~~
 ~~a roof portion of said docking station/garage having at least one~~
10 ~~solar-wing-panel-section attached thereto, wherein when said docking~~
~~station/garage is inflated, said solar-wing-panel section provides additional solar~~
~~panel-surface-area;~~
 area sensors to detect the location of said vehicle and guide said
vehicle to said docking station/garage when said vehicle completes a mission;
15 guidance sensors for guiding said vehicle inside of said docking
station/garage; and
 precision sensors for accurately position said vehicle at a
predetermined position inside said ~~docking station/garage~~.

21. (currently amended)The facility according to claim 1 ~~claim 19~~,
further comprising:

- an outer section, enclosed on a top portion and at least two side
portions, said outer section having an opening on two opposing sides, sized to
5 allow said vehicle to pass therein;
 an inner section, attached to said outer section;
 a door on a portion of an exterior wall of said inner section, said
door communicating said inner section with one of said two opposing sides of
said outer portion, thereby allowing said vehicle to pass through said outer
10 portion into said inner portion; and
 an experiment module, in said inner section, for offloading an
experiment module from said vehicle and loading a new experiment module
onto said vehicle when said vehicle is positioned in said ~~docking station/garage~~.

22. (currently amended) An inflatable ~~decking—station/garage~~ for storing or docking a Mars rover, comprising:

walls made of a self-rigidizing material.

an inflator for inflating said ~~decking—station/garage~~ upon
5 deployment at a desired location, the inflator including an inflation gas in a sealed container that makes the self-rigidizing material more rigid;

an outer section, enclosed by a top portion and at least two side portions, said outer section having an opening on two opposing sides, sized to allow said Mars rover to pass therein;

10 an inner section, attached to said outer section;

a door on a portion of an exterior wall of said inner section, said door communicating said inner section with one of said two opposing sides of said outer portion, thereby allowing said vehicle to pass through said outer portion into said inner portion;

15 a first communication system for communicating between said Mars rover and said ~~decking—station/garage~~;

a second communication system for communicating between an Earth-based remote control station and at least one of said ~~decking station/garage~~ and said Mars rover;

20 ~~an environmental control system~~ a heating and cooling system for providing a proper environment temperature of between about 40 degrees and about 70 degrees Fahrenheit for storing said Mars rover;

solar panels disposed over at least a portion of an exterior surface of said ~~decking—station/garage~~;

25 an energy storing system for storing electrical energy generated by said solar panels;

a power box for connecting said Mars rover to electrical energy either from said solar panels or from said energy storing system;

30 a roof portion of said ~~docking station~~/garage having at least one
solar wing panel section attached thereto, wherein when said docking
station/garage is inflated, said solar wing panel section provides additional solar
panel surface area;

area sensors to detect the location of said vehicle and guide said
vehicle to said ~~docking station~~/garage when said vehicle completes a mission;
35 guidance sensors for guiding said vehicle inside of said docking
station/garage; and

precision sensors for accurately position said vehicle at a
predetermined position inside said docking station/garage.

23. (currently amended) The ~~docking station~~/garage according to claim
22, further comprising:

an experiment section, in said inner section, for offloading an
experiment module from said vehicle and loading a new experiment module
5 onto said vehicle when said vehicle is positioned in said ~~docking station~~/garage.

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (withdrawn) A method for storing and docking a planet surface
roving vehicle, comprising:

energizing a power box located within an interior portion of a
docking station/garage;
5 guiding said roving vehicle inside said interior portion;
electrically connecting said power box with said roving vehicle;
and

providing a proper environment within said interior portion with an environmental control system.

27. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, wherein said power box is energized from solar panels disposed over at least a portion of an exterior surface of said docking station/garage.

28. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, further comprising:

storing energy generated by said solar panels in an energy storing system; and

5 energizing said power box with at least one of said energy storing system and said solar panels.

29. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

detecting the location of said roving vehicle with area sensors;

5 guiding said vehicle into said interior portion of said docking station/garage with guidance sensors; and

accurately positioning said vehicle within said interior portion with precision sensors.

30. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

partitioning said docking station/garage into an outer section and an inner section, said outer section communicating an exterior of said docking station/garage with said inner section;

providing a door in said inner section, wherein said outer section protects said inner section from direct environmental conditions when said door is open to let said roving vehicle enter and exit.

31. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

5 fabricating walls of said docking station/garage of a sealed two-layer fabric system, said fabric system including a self-rigidizing material capable of rigidizing upon contact with air;

inflating air into an interior of said sealed two-layer fabric system, thereby rigidizing said self-rigidizing material.

32. (withdrawn) A method of performing experiments on a surface of an astrological body in space comprising:

5 placing on said astrological body a docking station/garage that comprises an interior portion suitable for housing a vehicle therein, a first communication system for communicating between said vehicle and said docking station/garage, a second communication system for communicating at least one of said docking station/garage and said vehicle with a remote location, and an environmental control system for providing a proper environment for storing said vehicle; and

10 sending said vehicle across said surface to conduct said experiments within a first exploration area, wherein said vehicle contains an experiment module.

33. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 32, further comprising changing said experiment module, when said experiments are complete, at an experiment changing station located inside said docking station/garage.

34. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 32, further comprising moving said docking station/garage to additional exploration areas, thereby increasing the range of the vehicle.